

Open Burning Education & Awareness Finds (and other resources)

Prepared by Susan Salterberg, UNI CEEE, Nov. 2006

Star program for Minnesota: Pay half of officer's salary

A solid waste agency paid half of a police officer's salary for a year to deal with burning and other environmental issues. Because this gave the officer incentive to seek out certain types of crimes, they were able to make many more meth arrests and other arrests that the sheriff was convinced this was a great way to address larger crimes. (Clearing the Air, p. 18; Mark Rust 11/27 teleconference, MOEA.)

Star program #2: Trade in burn barrels for 6-months of reduced garbage pick-up fees (Clearing the Air, p. 14).

Star program #3: Open burning meetings in counties

Mark Rust, MOEA staffer, toured the state and gave presentations on open burning and had Q/A.

Other programs that appear to have merit:

- 1) **Preventable Pollution: A Workshop for Local Officials** (Clearing the Air, p. 11).
- 2) **Air Defenders Teacher Curriculum**

Resources

Star Resource #1: *Clearing the Air: Tools for Reducing Residential Garbage Burning*, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance and Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, June 2005. Available at

http://www.wlssd.com/Open_Burning/Clearing_the_Air_downloadvs.pdf

Includes:

- Referenced chart of Major Known Sources of Dioxin and other excellent easy to read and easy to understand background information about health affects and fire dangers
- Awareness tools (brochures, posters, etc.) and tips on use of them
- Example of a successful rural waste collection program in MN (p. 13)
- Example of a successful burn-barrel buy-back program (p. 14)
- Details of MN's, MI's and WI's laws

Air Defenders: the Quest for Clean Air, WI DNR

Includes:

- Power point presentations targeted to children and adult audiences
- Game for 4-7th graders (but I don't agree with all of their answers!)
- Teacher's activity/lesson guide with 8 activities
- Letter for children to take home to parents
- Examples of health hazards of burning certain materials, etc.
- Website: airdefenders.org and much, much more

Waste Not, Burn Not 10-minute video, MOEA

10-minute video that's part of the air defenders kit

Open Burning in Rural Minnesota powerpoint presentation (also available as pdf at <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/lc/byburn/MOEABurnBarrelReport.pdf>). Presentation highlights a study conducted by Zenith research of open burning behaviors and attitudes of Minnesotans.

Refuse and Air Pollution Bibliography of Children's Books, compiled by Jonathan Betz-Zall, available at <http://ecolibrarian.org>.

Sampling of websites:

www.openburning.org

www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce.burnbarrel.cfm

www.airdefenders.org

A list of other resources and websites may be found on page 12 of *Clearing the Air*. These include safe wood burning to the MN health department's dioxin risk assessment.